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INTEROBLAST CONFERENCE OF PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMISTS
AND FORENSIC MEDICINE EXPERTS

An interoblast conference of pathological anatomists and forensic medicine experts from Kursk and Orlov oblasts was held in Kursk from 8 to 10 December 1951. The conference, in which 41 men participated (among them Prof. P. P. Vrizhkov, Chief Pathological Anatomist of the Ministry of Public Health RSFSR), was devoted to questions concerning the development and reconstitution of scientific and practical work in the light of the teachings of I. P. Pavlov.

The head of the Kursk Oblast Public Health Division, K. F. Andreyeva, in her introductory speech, pointed out the importance of this particular conference, at which there were in attendance representatives of two closely related disciplines from two oblasts. She emphasized the urgent necessity for greater contact between pathological anatomists and forensic medicine experts, as a result of which there would be improvement of the quality of their work.

A report on the condition of the pathological anatomic service in Kursk and Orlov was presented by the Chief Pathological Anatomist of these oblasts, Prof A. S. Brunberg.

The Chief of the Kursk Oblast Bureau of Forensic Investigation, M. G. Chursanov, reported on forensic medicine investigation in Kursk Oblast.

The Orlov Oblast forensic medicine expert, T. I. Zhuchina, described the state of forensic medicine investigation in Orlov Oblast.

Reports on these subjects were also rendered by V. I. Chaykovskiy (Valuyki), V. M. Litovchenko (Belgorod), N. K. Siliverstova (Staryy Oskol), and L. N. Busheyeva (L'govo). The reports on local developments indicated both outstanding achievements and failures in the task of elevating the quality of the work.

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The Kursk City forensic medicine experts, A. V. Bulgakov, B. S. Dimitriyeva, Prof. A. V. Belichenko, and the physicians V. V. Doroshenko (Kursk), A. G. Plyasova (Staryy Oskol), A. A. Platonova (Shchigry), and Kolesnik (Grayvoron) took part in the discussions, from which it appeared that the condition of pathological anatomic work in the medical districts, in the main, depends on how well the chief physician grasps its significance and facilitates its development.

After a discussion of organizational questions, two scientific reports were read, one by Prof. M. P. Derevyagina, "Problems of allergy in the Light of Pavlov's Teaching," and the other by Prof. A. S. Brumberg, "Problems of Pathology in the Light of Pavlov's Teaching." Both reports acquainted the physicians attending the conference with current views on the cardinal problems of pathology, and emphasized the significance of Pavlov's physiological teachings for the further development of Soviet science.

Docent D. I. Ziskind, in his report on forensic toxicology, outlined new views on the role of interoreceptors in the dynamics of the action of toxic substances, and on the significance of the nervous activity type in various toxic effects.

Assistant V. S. Dimitriyeva, in a report entitled "The Pathomorphology of Rheumatism and of Lingering Septic Endocarditis," presented her observations, which did not corroborate the conclusions of Professor Chernogubov concerning the great frequency of lingering septic endocarditis originating independently of rheumatism.

M. G. Chursanov, in his report "Mistakes of Physicians and Experts," cited outstanding instances of incorrect diagnoses by physicians and of mistaken conclusions by forensic medicine experts which were caused by insufficient investigation and incorrect evaluation of symptoms and observations.

A. Yu. Gryunberg (prosector of the Kursk Oblast Tuberculosis Hospital) acquainted the conference participants with the classification of tuberculosis of the lungs which has been proposed by Prof. A. I. Strukov. He stated that he has long adhered to this classification, and that he considers it to be best for clinical needs.

Assistant A. V. Bulgakov, in his report "The Pathomorphology of Dysentery and Toxic Dyspepsia," stressed the difficulty of differential diagnosis which distinguishes between these diseases either in the clinic or in section [in a post mortem?]. He presented his observations on the changes which take place in children's lungs during dysentery, and pointed out that individual forms of lung changes due to hyperaemia, stasis, oedema, and either interstitial or bronchial pneumonia appear to be only phases of the same pathological process caused by nerve dystrophy factors and accompanied by a sharp increase in the permeability of the vascular walls.

In his report "An Analysis of the Divergencies Between Clinical and Anatomical Diagnoses," Prof. A. S. Brumberg enumerated the discrepancies of diagnosis which are significant in daily prosectorial practice. He dwelt, in particular, on the frequent occurrence in hospital reports of references to the "short sojourn of the patient in the hospital" as an explanation of discrepancies in diagnosis. With the unification of hospitals and polyclinics, all the links in the medical network represent a united whole so that the medical treatment of a patient in the hospital has become merely a continuation of his treatment begun at home or in the polyclinic. At the present time, in conjunction with that unification, the time has come to re-examine this justification of diagnostic discrepancies. In the majority of such instances the cause of the divergency should be sought, not in the short sojourn of the patient at the hospital, but in the insufficient examination of the patient either at home or in the polyclinic.

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A chemist from the Kursk Forensic Chemical Laboratory, M. F. Leskova, familiarized the attending physicians with the work of her laboratory and with the sequence of procedures followed in the examination of material evidence.

At the end of the conference, Prof P. P. Dvishkov pointed out that the value of the conference lay in the fact that it had been convened at the request of local workers. According to Dvishkov, unification between pathological anatomists and forensic medicine experts is imposed by the needs of public health. In the future, he continued, it would be imperative that there be closer cooperation between these two specialties. The pathological anatomy service, he remarked, is a powerful instrument which can be used to raise the quality of medical work.

Professor Dvishkov also spoke about various organizational matters, particularly the creation of the position of Interrayon Pathological Anatomist as the inauguration of a new form of pathological anatomic service. In addition, he stressed the importance of the morphologic method of investigation, pointing out its significance in the works of I. P. Pavlov, K. M. Bykov, and O. B. Lepeshinskaya. He remarked that similar oblast and interoblast conferences between specialists ought to be held often, and noted that this conference was the first attempt at the organization of such meetings.

Prof A. S. Brumberg, in closing the conference, emphasized the necessity of closer and more frequent contacts of visiting rayon physicians with pathological anatomy chairs on the one hand, and the oblast bureaus of forensic medicine on the other, and stated that these institutions in turn should bend every effort in order to raise the pathological anatomic and forensic medicine service to an adequately high level.

On the basis of the reports and speeches, the conference passed a resolution aimed at further development of the pathological anatomic and forensic medicine service in Kursk and Orlov oblasts.

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